PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: July 31, 2013

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JOB FAIR FOR VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS TO BE OFFERED BY STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT

Online event to offer information and job opportunities at www.connectingcolorado.com

(DENVER) -- The Department of Labor and Employment announced today that a job fair will begin a two week run online starting August 2 to assist people in the aftermath of wildfires and other natural disasters across the state.

This Virtual Job Fair will run from August 2 - 16, at <u>www.connectingcolorado.com</u> and will be a content rich environment with a wide range of information to help individuals recover and move forward.

"This online event is targeting people affected by a summer with so many natural disasters," says Executive Director Ellen Golombek. "The Black Forest Fire and the Royal Gorge Fire are two that come to mind first but there have been others, too many to list in full. The Citadel and East Tschuddi Fires, the West Fork Complex, Ward Gulch and Hell's Canyon fires are among the fires that have charred thousands of acres and impacted hundreds of local residents."

She adds that a drought across much of the state has also affected many Coloradans. "Regardless of where a natural disaster's impact has been felt, this online event is a way to offer resources and opportunities at a critical time."

At the heart of the event will be a job fair, offering a diversity of immediate openings. Participants will also be able to attend employer presentations to learn about the companies and workshops to help job seekers write a strong résumé and build their interviewing skills. A special section of the virtual job fair will be devoted to providing services to veterans.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Special Projects Unit offered its first Virtual Job Fair in 2011. This event in early August is designed to take virtual assistance to the next level, using technology to bring together employment specialists from across Colorado and local, state and federal resources to create an online experience that will help people get back on their feet.